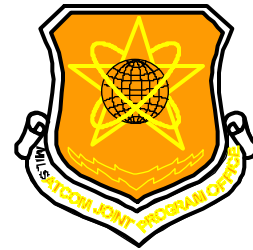


# Acquisition Reform Success Story



## Advanced EHF Engineering Model

**System Program Director:** Col Joe Sovey  
**Program Manager:** Maj David Thompson  
**PEO:** Mr Brent Collins  
**Contractor:** TBD (Source Selection Ongoing)  
**Contractor PM:** TBD

## Program Description

The Advanced EHF Engineering Model (EM) program was developed to ensure that the technical implementation of projected future requirements for the Advanced EHF satellite communications system is bounded and feasible prior to the start of Engineering and Manufacturing Development in FY 01. As compared to Milstar II, the current global, secure communications system, current projections indicate that unit cost of the Advanced EHF satellite must decrease by 40%, payload weight must be cut in half and throughput must increase by a factor of ten in order to meet future requirements and budget constraints. The EM program allows the technical innovations necessary to meet these goals to be demonstrated in advance and will give the government confidence to assume a low risk, low cost, shortened system-level development program.

## How Streamlining Made a Difference

The EM program and the complimentary Advanced MILSATCOM technology program have been structured to allow participation by satellite developers, subsystem providers and component manufacturers alike. They target the highest risk subsets of the future system and technologies that will be provided by the commercial market in the FY 2000 timeframe. This structure benefits the government because it allows for a greater degree of industry participation, increasing competition throughout the program. Since these subsystem and component level efforts are not yet contractually linked to the major program, government oversight and overhead have also been dramatically reduced.

Streamlined documentation, reporting and approval requirements allowed a dedicated team of less than ten people to take the partially completed efforts of similar work done the previous spring, modify and complete them, and release the EM Request For Proposal (RFP) in 2.5 months. Use of the EM World Wide Web site to release incremental drafts of the RFP and several pre-solicitation conferences kept communications open with potential bidders as the technical and programmatic aspects of the program crystallized.

**Bottom Line:** The EM program enables a short term, low risk, low cost development of the Advanced EHF satellite, while increasing the capacity by an order of magnitude over the current system. By maximizing industry participation in pre-RFP activities, the Government promoted competition and ensured system performance will not lag behind industry capabilities.

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